



March 2017

## 2017 AWARDS PROGRAM

### PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS ANNUAL AWARDS

The annual Public Water System Awards Program will be held at the Devens' Common Center on May 9, 2017 in Devens, MA. Come and enjoy the ceremony and a light lunch.

The sponsors of this event are: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), USEPA Region 1, Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA), New England Water Works Association (NEWWA), RCAP-Solutions, Mass Rural Water Association, Barnstable County Water Utilities Association, Middlesex/Worcester County Water Works Association, Plymouth County Water Works Association, and Western Mass Waterworks Association.

All community (COM) and non-transient non-community (NTNC) public water systems (PWS) are eligible for an award. In addition to the Public Water Systems Awards, systems will be nominated for the Water Conservation Award, the Energy Conservation Award, the Source Protection Award, the Regional Recognition Awards and new for this year the Distinguished Operator Award. The recipients for these award categories will be nominated by the four MassDEP Regional Offices and MassDEP Boston. No applications are required for any of the 2017 award categories.

**1. Water Conservation Award** - A system will be recognized for their water conservation and Water Management Act permit implementation efforts in 2016. This award is limited to systems subject to the Water Management Act permit and registration. The award recipient will be notified in April and personally invited to come to the awards ceremony in May.

**2. Energy Conservation Award** - A system will be awarded for working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing annual electric consumption (via energy audits or in-house evaluations), completed assessments for renewable and clean energy possibilities (e.g., but not limited to solar, wind, outfall turbines, combined heat and power), and shown leadership in implementing energy-related projects in 2016. The award recipient will be notified in April and personally invited to come to the awards ceremony in May.

**3. Source Protection Award** - There will be up to four Source Protection Awards given. Each MassDEP Regional Office will nominate one PWS that showed exemplary source protection measures in 2016. The award recipient will be notified in April and personally invited to come to the awards ceremony in May.

**4. Recognition Award** – This is a regional recognition award. Each MassDEP Regional Office will select one PWS in their region that has performed an exemplary job running their public water system in calendar year 2016. The system may be a most improved system, has overcome a major emergency, upgraded their system, or performed an activity that sets them apart from other water systems. Award recipients will be notified in April and personally invited to come to the awards ceremony in May.

**5. Distinguished Operator Performance Award** – This is a new category starting this year. Any one of the MassDEP regional offices can nominate an operator for outstanding work done in the field during calendar year 2016.

**6. Public Water Systems Award** - The highest-scoring PWSs will be recognized. This is usually around 30 systems, and will be split among NTNC, small COM ( $\leq 3,300$  population), medium and large COM (3,301 and over population), and consecutive systems. Scores are tabulated on a point system based on the following criteria:

- a. The system must be in compliance with the drinking water regulations for all of calendar year 2016. MassDEP will query the state database for any non-compliance. A system will usually fall out of contention for an award due to any noncompliance, be it a report not sent in on time, a maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation, a higher-level enforcement (HLE), etc. See chart on following page for compliance activity points.

**Note:** *it is very important to correct any inconsistencies in your record of compliance. See EPA's website ([http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis\\_query.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis_query.html)) for a review of this information. Contact your regional MassDEP office immediately if you have any questions or corrections regarding your compliance history since this information determines your qualification in the awards program.*

- b. To break the ties that arise we shall look at the following PWS actions or program involvement, such as: enforcement actions for the last five years, records of the system analyzing and reporting samples for the full suite of secondary contaminants, signing-up for the HHAN or WARN systems, etc. Using this criterion will show which systems took the initiative to venture above and beyond compliance.

**Notes:**

Systems that have won for three consecutive years will not be eligible to win for a fourth year. They will, however, be issued a letter of commendation and personally invited to attend the Awards Program. The system will be eligible again in the fifth year, after a one-year hiatus.

For Awards Program information, PWSs can check the MassDEP website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/water-systems-ops.html#2> If you have any questions about the annual awards program, please contact Marie Tennant at 617-292-5885 or [Marie.Tennant@state.ma.us](mailto:Marie.Tennant@state.ma.us).

## How scores will be tabulated

All systems start with 100 points. Points are then subtracted as shown below.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014	COM*	CONS*	SMALL COM*	NTNC*
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY</b>				
-2 for not delivering a Consumer Confidence Report and certification form by 07-01-2016	(-2)	(-2)	(-2)	N/A
-10 for not having a primary certified operator	(-10)	(-10)	(-10)	(-10)
-5 for failure to submit the 2015 Annual Statistical Report on time.	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)
<b>DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PROTECTION</b>				
-3 for not having an approved Cross Connection Control Program Plan fully implemented (cross-connection survey and active backflow device testing program) or any other cross-connection violation	(-3)	(-3)	(-3)	(-3)
-2 for not having 100% of service connections metered	(-2)	(-2)	(-2)	N/A
<b>TREATMENT / DISINFECTION / MONITORING / NOTIFICATION</b>				
-5 for Bacteria MCL/MR violation	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)
-5 for IOC MCL/MR violation	(-5)	(N/A <sup>1</sup> )	(-5)	(-5)
-5 for Lead/Copper 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile exceedance	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)
-5 for Radionuclides MCL/MR violation	(-5)	(N/A <sup>1</sup> )	(-5)	N/A
-5 for SOC MCL/MR violation	(-5)	(N/A <sup>1</sup> )	(-5)	(-5)
-5 for Stage 1/Stage 2 D/DBPR MCL/MRDL/MR violation	(-5)	(N/A <sup>1</sup> )	(-5)	(-5)
-5 for SWTR/IESWTR/LT1ESWTR/LT2ESWTR/Turbidity MCL/TT/MR violation	(-5)	(N/A <sup>1</sup> )	(-5)	(-5)
-5 for VOC MCL/MR violation	(-5)	(N/A <sup>1</sup> )	(-5)	(-5)
-5 for GWR significant deficiency, TT/MR violation, Tier I Public Notices	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)
-5 for Public Notification violation	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)
<b>OTHER ENFORCEMENTS / VIOLATIONS</b>				
-5 for a Water Management Act (WMA) violation or NON	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)
-5 for a Boil Order, Do Not Use Order, or Do Not Drink Order	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)	(-5)

-10 for an EPA Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT) Repeat violators have >25 points	(-10)	(-10)	(-10)	(-10)
-25 for any outstanding higher level enforcements	(-25)	(-25)	(-25)	(-25)
-25 for a Penalty Assessment Notice	(-25)	(-25)	(-25)	(-25)
<b>MAXIMUM POSSIBLE COMPLIANCE SCORE</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

\*System Types: COM=Med/Lg Community (3301 and over population), CONS=Consecutive, Small COM (3300 and fewer population), NTNC=Nontransient Noncommunity

1 Consecutive systems do not routinely test for these contaminants. If they should they test for them and receive violations, they would be subject to the same point value as other systems.